

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 BIB-01 SS-15 SP-02 SSO-00

INR-07 INRE-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 USIE-00 L-03 NSCE-00

PRS-01 SIL-01 PA-01 /050 W  
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O P 111734Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7071

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3120

STATE FOR EUR/ARMITAGE AND EUR/WE/BARBOUR

PARIS PLEASE PASS ROBERTS C/O DCM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, US, PO, SP

SUBJECT: RFE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) LISBON 3017 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 110339

SUMMARY: GOP NEGOTIATOR WILL BE PREPARED TO MEET WITH  
ABSHIRE AND ROBERTS O/A MAY 20-21. HE HAS YET TO REVIEW  
DRAFT CONTRACT IN ANY DETAIL. HE INDICATES FAVORABLE  
OVER-ALL ATTITUDE TOWARD NEW CONTRACT, BUT IS STILL  
CONCERNED ABOUT IMPLICATIONS GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT  
ASPECT. END SUMMARY.

1. FIGUEIREDO'S VIEWS: EMBOFF MET MAY 10 WITH MAJ.  
JOAO FIGUEIREDO, GOP NEGOTIATOR, AND RARET MANAGER  
CARMEN COSTA PEREIRA TO DISCUSS PLANNED ABSHIRE/ROBERTS  
LISBON VISIT AND TO REITERATE NECESSITY OF BIB PARTICIPATION  
IN CONTRACT OR COVERING LETTER. FIGUEIREDO SAID HE  
UNDERSTOOD REASONS FOR DESIRED USG PARTICIPATION, BUT  
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HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT THAT APPROACH OPENED UP MANY

POSSIBILITIES FOR DIFFICULTIES. IF THE USG COULD OBTAIN THE ELEMENTS IT REQUIRES IN THE CONTRACT WITHOUT INCLUDING THE NAME OF BIB OR USG, HE ARGUED, WOULD THIS NOT BE ACCEPTABLE? OTHER POINTS FIGUEIREDO MADE: GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONTRACT WOULD HAVE TO INVOLVE PORTUGUESE FONOFF, WHICH HE THOUGHT AN UNNECESSARY COMPLICATION IN LIGHT OF EASE WITH WHICH GOP'S CTT (POST & TELEGRAPH COMPANY) COULD NEGOTIATE AND SIGN CONTRACT WITH RARET, A "PRIVATE PORTUGUESE ENTITY." HE AGAIN SAID HE FEARED THAT LEFTIST AGITATORS AMONG RARET ACTIVITIST WORKERS WOULD OPPOSE ANY DIRECT USG ROLE IN CONTRACT AND WOULD EXPLOIT SUCH ALLEGED "INTERVENTION" IN THE MEDIA AND ELSEWHERE. HE ALSO SAID THAT, IN TERMS OF PRECEDENT, THE GOP RECENTLY NEGOTIATED A RADIO TRANSMISSION CONTRACT FOR DEUTSCHE WELLE WITH A PRIVATE PORTUGUESE FIRM ORGANIZED ALONG RARET LINES. AS FOR APPROACH OF ATTACHING BIB-GOP COVERING LETTER TO CONTRACT SIGNED BY CTT AND RARET, FIGUEIREDO SAID SOME, INCLUDING COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ALMEIDA SANTOS, WOULD WONDER WHY THE GOP SHOULD SIGN TWO DOCUMENTS "WHEN ONE WOULD DO." FURTHER, HE DID NOT BELIEVE A COVERING LETTER SIGNED BY BIB WOULD BE ANY MORE ACCEPTABLE TO LEFTIST AGITATORS THAN MENTION OF BIB IN THE CONTRACT ITSELF.

2. ABSHIRE/ROBERTS MEETING: IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, FIGUEIREDO AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO EXCHANGE VIEWS PRIVATELY AND INFORMALLY WITH ABSHIRE AND ROBERTS MAY 20 OR 21. HE INDICATED HE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE A CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE DRAFT CONTRACT BY THEN. HE CLEARLY HAD NOT HAD TIME TO STUDY THE DRAFT. (COMMENT: FIGUEIREDO SO FAR HAS INDICATED A POSITIVE POSITION TOWARD NEGOTIATION AND SIGNING OF A NEW CONTRACT. IT IS THE "HOW TO DO IT" ANGLE THAT CONCERNS HIM. WHILE HE DID NOT SO INDICATE IN MAY 10 MEETING, FIGUEIREDO CONCEIVABLY COULD BE READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH ABSHIRE AND ROBERTS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES-- INCLUDING MEANS OF SATISFYING USG PARTICIPATION NEEDS-- DURING MAY 20 OR 21 MEETING OR SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS. AT LEAST AT THE OUTSET, FIGUEIREDO THOUGHT CONFIDENTIAL

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BIB OFFICERS' PRESENCE SHOULD BE KEPT WITHIN INTERESTED GOP CIRCLES.

3. ROSA'S LATEST VIEWS: IN SEPARATE MEETING MAY 11 BETWEEN MINISTER ROMAS ROSA AND EMBASSY LABATT, ROSA MENTIONED THAT THERE ARE MANY THINGS PENDING WHICH NEEDED TO BE DONE TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND U.S. HOWEVER, SOME OF THESE WERE

"A LITTLE CONTROVERSIAL AND WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DO UNTIL NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMED." LABATT MENTIONED THAT RFE CONTRACT HAD BEEN FORWARDED TO FIGUEIREDO ON MAY 4 AS PER AGREEMENT IN PRIOR OKUN/ROSA CONVERSATION. ROSA INDICATED HE HAD SPOKEN WITH MINISTER ALMEIDA SANTOS ON THIS SUBJECT DURING MORNING OF MAY 11. ROSA SUGGESTED AGAIN THAT BEST MANNER OF RESOLVING PROBLEM WAS TO COVER OPEN AGREEMENT WITH SEPARATE, RESERVED LETTER BETWEEN PARTIES. LABATT REITERATED OUR INTEREST IN HAVING OPEN AGREEMENT TO AVOID POSSIBLE CHARGES OF SUBTERFUGE AND TO OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. ROSA READILY UNDERSTOOD, AND AGREED THAT SOLUTION IS TO FIND "WORKING LANGUAGE" ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES. HE EXPRESSED PLEASURE WHEN LABATT MENTIONED PLANNED VISIT OF ABSHIRE AND ROBERTS AND THOUGHT THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE AT THAT TIME.

4. FOR ABSHIRE AND ROBERTS: SUGGEST YOU MAY FIND IT HELPFUL WHILE IN GERMANY TO REVIEW BACKGROUND OF RECENT DEUTSCHE WELLE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOP REGARDING THEIR TRANSMISSION FACILITIES IN PORTUGAL.

5. DEPT ACTION REQUESTED: AS DISCUSSED DURING OKUN CONSULTATION, PRESENCE OF DEPT ATTORNEY IN LISBON WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL DURING ABSHIRE/ROBERTS VISIT. "L" ATTORNEY WOULD ALSO CONFER WITH RARET LAWYERS. CARLUCCI

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